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20 June 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR:


~~General Carter~~, DDCI

With respect to Dean Rusk's communication of June 16, outlining a plan to establish Task Force Southeast Asia (known as TF/SEA), General Taylor, Secretary Gilpatric and I have all voiced objections to Alexis Johnson. Our objections are similar and identical with yours.

We have recommended that TF/SEA and TF/VN be brought together into one organization and that it be considered as a supporting Task Force to the Special Group (CG). Johnson has this matter under consideration. It is obvious that he must either communicate with Secretary Rusk or await his return.

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*Note - please inform proper
Agency people, including JDP and E*

[Signature]
20 June 62


JOHN A. MCCONE
Director

Encl.

STATE review(s) completed.

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ER 62-4206

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1962

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Dear John:

As Alexis Johnson informed members of the Special Group (SG) at their last meeting, I have requested Governor Harriman to constitute an interdepartmental Task Force to coordinate United States activities in the Southeast Asian countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Laos and Viet-Nam.

I suggest that this Task Force, to be known as Task Force Southeast Asia (TF/SEA), be composed of representatives of the Department of State, the Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Agency for International Development, and the United States Information Agency. Other departments and agencies could be represented as required.

The present Task Force Viet-Nam would remain in existence and its composition, terms of reference and scope of operations would be unchanged. However, in order to insure that TF/SEA is kept fully informed and that the work of the two Task Forces is completely coordinated, TF/VN would be represented on TF/SEA. TF/SEA would be charged with the following tasks:

1) Plan programs to carry out established United States policy with respect to these individual countries (or among two or more of them).

2) Coordinate, guide and follow closely execution of these programs to insure maximum cooperation and expeditious completion.

3) Develop

The Honorable
John A. McCone, Director,
Central Intelligence Agency.

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3) Develop new policy recommendations which will further United States objectives in these individual countries or in the area as a whole.

The new Task Force would be under the direction of Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs W. Averell Harriman, who is designating Henry L. T. Koren as Executive Officer and Robert G. Cleveland as Deputy Executive Officer of the Task Force.

I believe that TF/SEA should begin its work as soon as possible. Therefore, if you agree, I suggest that Governor Harriman's office be notified of the name or names of your representatives on TF/SEA, to permit setting an early date for a first meeting.

Sincerely,

Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk

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Mr. McCone :

You want to call Alexis
Johnson about the attached letter.



STAT

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR: *Gen. & Carter*

*Secy. Rusk informs of
Harriman's designation as director
of Task Force / Southeast Asia.*

He asks:

- 1) If you agree - and*
- 2) That CIA reps to Task
Force be named & submitted to
Harriman.*

*Mr. McCone has copy of
this letter.* (DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)